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Ash Tree Solar Farm

Invitation to public consultation event:

Thursday 19 October 2023 | 2pm to 7pm

The Cedar Suite, Belton Woods Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort, Belton NG32 2LN

Introducing Ash Tree Solar Farm

Low Carbon is preparing to submit a planning application to South Kesteven District Council for a solar farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) on land west of High Dike Road, B6403 and north of Londonthorpe.

The project would have capacity of approximately 49.9MW with the proposed development creating enough renewable energy to meet the annual electricity demands of approximately 16,000 homes. It would also offset approximately 9,600 tonnes of CO_2 each year.

The battery facility will reinforce the power generated by the solar farm and provide balancing services to maintain grid stability.

Why are we proposing to develop Ash Tree Solar Farm?

We need to reduce our reliance on foreign fossil fuels to fight climate change and the cost-of-living crisis. In April 2022 the Government's British Energy Security Strategy set an ambition to increase the UK's solar capacity from 14GW to 70GW by 2035. National Grid also estimates that this will require a twelve-fold increase in storage capacity by 2050.

In September 2019 South Kesteven District Council declared a Climate Emergency, with the aim of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The Council's Climate Action Strategy (2023) states:

"The development of renewable energy at every level will be important to drive local energy generation and provide a tangible contribution to national net zero targets."

The proposals at Ash Tree will provide wide ranging benefits, including:

- It will assist South Kesteven District Council in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with local and national targets in response to the Climate Emergency.
- It will contribute towards the security of energy supply in Lincolnshire through the provision of local, renewable electricity and battery storage.
- Careful consideration has been given to the development to avoid effects on landscape, heritage, or ecological designations.
- A community fund will be established to invest in local projects and initiatives.
- It will deliver biodiversity and ecological enhancements to improve aspects of the local environment.
- This is a temporary development, allowing the land to rest for a period of operation up to 40 years.
- Decommissioning and full restoration of the site at the end of life of the development will be secured via planning condition.
- The proposed solar farm will not require Government subsidy.

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Low Carbon creates large-scale renewable energy to fight climate change. We're building a net-zero energy company that will protect the planet for future generations. This defining purpose drives us to deliver for our communities, investors, and the environment.

We are British-founded and a long-standing certified B-Corporation and recognised as gold standard for our environmental impact. We invest in, develop, and operate large-scale renewable energy projects across the globe. We're contributing to the world's move to 100% renewable energy.

Low Carbon is on a mission. Together, we will power tomorrow.

Public consultation

We invite you to provide feedback on our draft proposals in the following ways:

1

Attend our public consultation event on Thursday 19 October 2023 from 2pm to 7pm.

You are invited to attend our public consultation event at which you can see our plans, learn more about our proposal and talk to the project team. We're holding our public consultation event at the **The Cedar Suite, Belton Woods Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort, Belton NG32 2LN**

2

Fill in the feedback form that accompanies this public consultation brochure.

Please read through the leaflet and provide feedback to us by way of the free post feedback form that came with the brochure.

3

Visit the dedicated public consultation website: www.ashtreesolarfarm.co.uk

We have set up a dedicated public consultation website, where you can find information about our draft proposals and provide feedback.

Indicative timescales

- October 2023
  Pre-submission consultation
- November 2023
  Finalise proposed design
- November / December 2023
  Submit planning application
- May 2024
  Planning decision (approximately 13 weeks from submission)
- Summer 2025
  Earliest date of construction (if granted approval)

The site

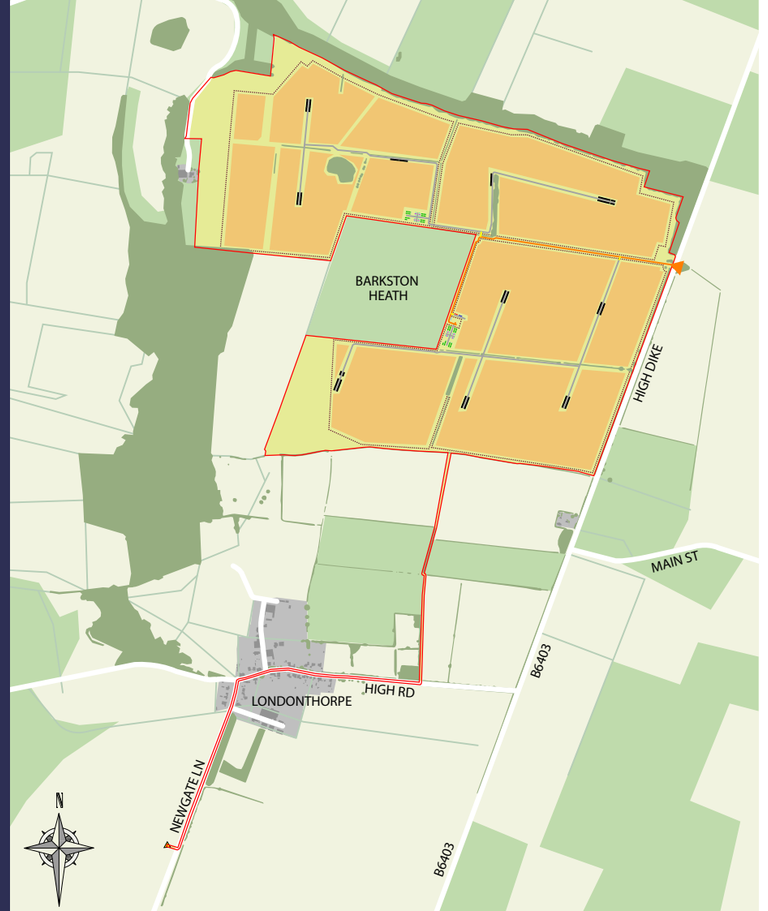
The project is situated on land west of High Dike Road, B6403 and north of Londonthorpe and extends to approximately 340 acres (138 hectares).

In addition to having solar panels on the site, the proposal also includes biodiversity and landscape enhancement measures.

Sheep may also be grazed underneath the solar panels once operational, thereby offering dual use for the land.

The site will be accessed from High Dike Road, B6403, turning west into the site. Construction of the project is estimated to take approximately 30 weeks.

The electricity generated by the solar panels will connect into Grantham BSP Substation via underground cables.



KEY

- Proposed site
- DNO/construction access
- Construction and maintenance access
- Site access
- Perimeter fenceline
- Existing vegetation
- Residential area

Site infrastructure

- Solar panal area
- Twin SKID (TX)
- PCSK inverter
- Power pack controller
- Inverter
- Customer switchgear
- Welfare building
- Trinia Elementa battery unit
- Point of connection

Frequently asked questions

Why Solar and Batteries?
The Climate Emergency, the cost of living crisis and the energy crunch are all linked by how we generate, use and supply energy. We urgently need to generate energy from new, low cost, low carbon sources and solar is the lowest cost and quickest to deploy of all energy sources (IRENA, 2022).

Solar is already making a difference, for example between June and August this year, solar often provided up to 25% of UK daytime electricity (National Grid ESO carbon app). The Government's Energy Security Strategy (2022) proposed a five-fold increase in solar by 2035. This can only be achieved by deploying solar on both land and buildings.

Battery storage technologies play a pivotal role in seamlessly integrating renewable energy generation, such as solar power, into the existing grid network.

Why Here?
Low Carbon has carefully identified this site as part of a detailed feasibility process to deliver a large-scale clean energy scheme. Many factors are considered by our specialists when evaluating appropriate sites for development.

These include considering the available grid locally as well as various planning and environmental constraints.

Will the solar farm change the land classification?
The solar farm is a temporary development and will not change the land classification.

Are solar farms noisy?
No, solar panels have no moving parts and emit no sound. Inverters and transformers can emit very low level sound, but these are sited away from houses and cannot be heard from more than a few metres away.

Are solar farms a threat to food security?
The UK Food Security Report (2021) found that "the biggest medium to long term risk to the UK's domestic production comes from climate change and other environmental pressures such as soil degradation, water quality and biodiversity".

Solar farms currently account for 0.08% of total land use in the UK (Solar Energy UK 2022). The Government targets for a fivefold increase in solar would result in 0.3% of the UK land area being used by solar (Carbon Brief, 2022). This is the equivalent to around half of the space used by golf courses.

Will the solar farm harm wildlife?
There is no evidence that solar farms have a negative impact on wildlife. In fact, wildlife thrives within the sites when managed sensitively.

How will this solar farm directly benefit my community?
Low Carbon will contribute funds to local community projects as part of our solar farm investment.

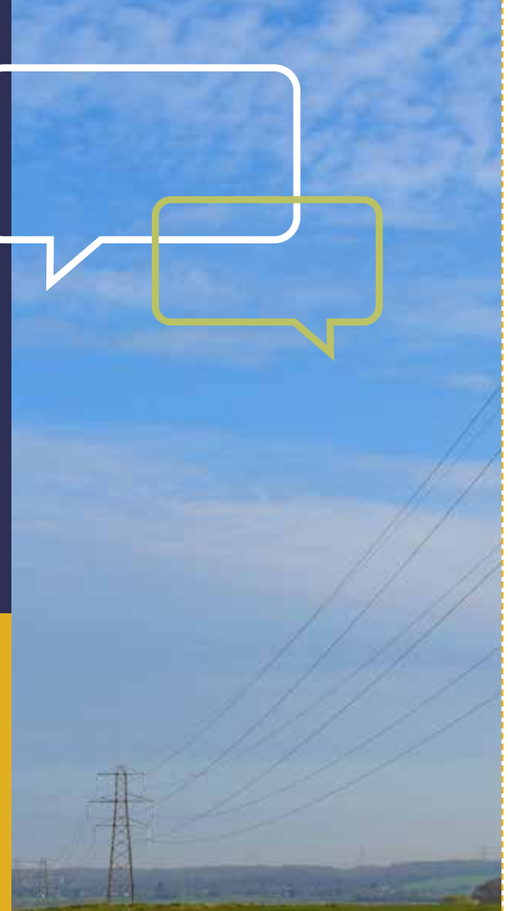
Are batteries safe?
Large-scale battery installation in the UK must comply with health and safety regulations, both for installation and operation.

They typically use Lithium-Ion Batteries, which are the same type of batteries as are used safely in mobile phones, laptops and electric vehicles every day all over the world.

Will the solar farm cause any glint and glare?
Solar panels are designed to absorb light and not to reflect it. They pose little risk of glint or glare. Testament to this fact is the installation of solar panels at Gatwick Airport, alongside major roads and beside sports car raceways such as the 'Top Gear' test track.

Have your say

Please take your time to consider the information within this brochure and don't hesitate to contact a member of our team should you have any questions or matters you need to be clarified. Comments provided by the local community will be considered in shaping the final planning application submission. Please provide any comments you have on the proposal by email or via the feedback form on the website. We would be grateful if you could answer the feedback form and let us have your contact details for the purpose of informing the project design and providing feedback to the council.



Contact Us

0800 158 2328

info@ashtreesolarfarm.co.uk

www.ashtreesolarfarm.co.uk

Feedback form

To return your completed feedback form please tear it from the brochure and pop it in the post by **Monday 30 October 2023**. Alternatively, you can return your form via email to **info@ashtreesolarfarm.co.uk**

Title: Name:

Address: Postcode:

Email: Telephone:

1. Has this brochure been helpful in understanding our proposal? ❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not sure

2. With regards to the proposals you have read about within this brochure, are you:

❑ In favour ❑ In objection ❑ Of no opinion ❑ Require further information

3. Please use this space to provide any comments on the proposal. We would welcome your feedback on all aspects of the emerging design shown in the brochure.

Please provide your contact details if you wish to get a response. Any information provided will only be used for the purpose of the planning application to the Local Planning Authority and will not be disclosed with any third parties. **Your contact details will not be listed on the planning application documentation.**

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LOW CARBON UK SOLAR DEVELOPMENT

FOLD HERE

Instructions

To return your feedback form, please fold and put it in the post to us.

If you'd like more space to share your thoughts, send us an email, or just write your comments down and pop them in an envelope with 'Freepost LOW CARBON UK SOLAR DEVELOPMENT' written on the front. You don't need any further address or stamp.

Any queries or problems? Get in touch via info@ashtreesolarfarm.co.uk.